

Music Makers: At Home in the World

MARSH

**PARENTS' GUIDE
TO ACTIVITIES**

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FEATURED INSTRUMENTS: *The Woodwind Family*



Clarinet



Oboe



Bassoon

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Music Makers: At Home in the World

- Family Packets for: *My Home Place*, *Woodlands*, *Cattail Marsh*, and *Meadow*
Each unit includes: 1) Folder/Poster with Game Pieces, 2) Recording with songs, dances, instrument demonstrations, notation games and classical music, 3) Instrument Poster(s), 4) Notation Game(s), 5) Parent's Guide to the Activities
- Family Packets for *My Neighborhood Community* and *Seashore*, additional units containing similar resources without sequentially based materials
- My Album Binder for children to collect their materials
- *Teacher's Guide*, bound book with 160 activity cards, lesson planning binder, Supplement 2000
- *Nature's Voices* CD
- *Instruments and Ensembles* CD

The Musikgarten Music and Movement Series

<i>Family Music for Babies</i>	- newborn to 18 months
<i>Family Music for Toddlers</i>	- 15 months to 3 ½ years
<i>The Cycle of Seasons</i>	- 3 to 5 years
<i>Music Makers: At Home & Around the World</i>	- 4 to 8 years
<i>Music Makers: Around the World at the Keyboard</i>	- from age 5
<i>Music Makers: At the Keyboard</i>	- from age 6
<i>Musikgarten Adults: Enjoying the Piano Together</i>	

Additional Programs:

<i>God's Children Sing</i>	<i>Nimble and Quick</i>
<i>My Musical World</i>	<i>Seashore</i>
<i>My Neighborhood Community</i>	<i>Summer</i>
<i>Nature's Music</i>	<i>Twist & Turn</i>
<i>Nature Trail</i>	

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MAKING MUSIC AT HOME

We have prepared this family packet to help you take the joy of the Music Makers' classes home! Music is sound and it is our hope that these materials will help you and your family "fill the air with music" in your daily life.

Your family packet consists of a recording, a poster of the *Cattail Marsh* with six Game Pieces, a picture of the featured instrumental ensemble *Woodwind Instruments*, and a notation game *Triple Rhythm Cards* in addition to this *Parents' Guide to the Activities*.

The guide is structured to follow the activities as they are presented on the recording. You will find songs, poems, and stories, as well as sounds, listening games and movement activities, all accompanied by ideas to facilitate your musical learning and enjoyment at home. Use these as examples on which to build your own games and explorations.

Listen – Move – Play – Sing – these are the four main areas of our activities with your child in class. In this book you will find many ideas to increase your child's participation in and enjoyment of the *Music Makers* program in each of the key areas.

The *Cattail Marsh*, our thematic point of departure for this unit, is home for a large variety of wildlife. Marshes are richly productive habitats for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The Game Pieces in your packet include two birds: a Great Blue Heron and a Red-winged Blackbird; two mammals: a Muskrat and a Weasel; an amphibian: a Bullfrog; and a reptile: a Painted Turtle. Take time to learn a little about each animal. If there is a relatively undisturbed wetland near you, go and visit with your child. Early morning is a wonderful time to hear the chorus of singers gathering for the day. Wear light-colored clothing and boots and keep your eyes and ears open.

The Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon are the members of the woodwind family of instruments which are featured in this unit. These instruments always have a special appeal to children. Look for opportunities to see, touch and hear these instruments 'live.' Maybe a neighborhood child plays a woodwind instrument in the school band and would gladly share his/her budding skill with your class; visit your local music store to see what instruments are available and the owners are willing to let you explore. Your child is gathering lasting impressions during this period of his/her life; if we, parents and teachers—work to provide a rich variety of experiences, your child will have many options in making his/her choices.

Make music together often. Become your child's companion in discovering the world of music. You will be given the opportunity to watch your child's love of music grow and to help his/her ability to make music blossom.

INTRODUCTION TO THE POSTER

Marshes and wetlands are fascinating places, full of smells and sounds and intriguing forms of life. As we learn more about our environment, our appreciation of the importance of these wetlands is growing. We are becoming more aware that they are not just mosquito-infested places. Their importance in controlling floods, sustaining water tables and reducing downstream pollution cannot be overestimated. Marshes are richly productive habitats for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

The Cattail Marsh poster features a freshwater marsh surrounding a pond in which cattails, water lilies, and arrowhead plants dominate. The foreground shows a “cutaway” of the underwater scene with its fascinating aquatic life.

Cattails provide both shelter and a food source to an array of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. They are a preferred nesting source to red-winged blackbirds, and a critical factor in spring and fall waterfowl migrations.

Among the permanent marsh residents are painted turtles and frogs. Being terrestrial and aquatic, they are able to take advantage of both environments.

The most numerous of species in the marsh are insects. Whirligig beetles, water striders, caddis fly larvae, and dragonflies – to name a few – are totally dependent on a watery habitat. Mosquito larvae are an important food source for birds, fish, frogs, and dragonflies.

The great blue heron and the kingfisher are attracted to the pond for its bountiful food supply of fish and minnows. Each uses a different technique to catch its food. The heron stands immobile in the shallows and stabs passing prey, while the kingfisher uses a perch above the water to sight and dive after prey.

The life of the marsh is also linked to the remarkable activities of certain animals. Muskrats eat large areas of cattails, and use cattails to construct their lodges. A predator that frequents the marsh is the weasel, which culls the muskrat population and keeps it healthy and strong. The weasel is an excellent swimmer and frequently takes over a muskrat lodge for its own house.

MUSIC MAKERS



Track 1

Crick - ets in the thick - ets, ka - ty - dids in trees; make mu - sic in the sum - mer
car - ried by the breeze. Frogs in bogs and peep - ers and birds that live near - by
fill the air with mu - sic. So do you and I, and so do you and I.

American poet and author Aileen Fisher wrote this special verse for our Music Makers Series! Canadian song writer Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote the melody and composer Howard Baer has created this joyous setting for our theme song. We invite you to improvise your own way of making music to this tune. Use any and all of the instruments which you have to fill the air with music.

Recording: Children's Choir, Flute, Guitar, Bass, Piano

CATTAIL MARSH INTRODUCTION



Track 2

Lay out the poster and the Game Pieces for the *Cattail Marsh*. Decide where to start looking to see who is at home here. Can you find some fish and insects in the picture? Do you see the muskrat lodge and a raccoon? What might the raccoon be doing? Help your child place the Game Pieces in appropriate locations:

- the Muskrat near its lodge;
- the Painted Turtle swimming in the water;
- the Weasel lurking around the edge of the pond.

Recording: Audrey Sillick

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

Cattail Marsh 1 (Week 16)

- Listen to the recording.
- Sing and dance to *I See You* with the whole family.
- Visit a watery place in your area to observe wildlife. Listen to the animal voices there.

Cattail Marsh 2 (Week 17)

- Listen to the recording, especially to the woodwind instruments, CD No. 7 – 11.
- Enjoy playing the beat with *A Frog Went a-Courtin'* (CD No. 13). Try dramatizing the story.

Cattail Marsh 3 (Week 18)

- Sing and dance to *I See You*.
- Listen to the recording.
- Visit a zoo that allows you to view animal movements close up, particularly aquatic creatures.
- Draw a picture of a favorite watery place.

Cattail Marsh 4 (Week 19)

- Listen to the recording.
- Dance with the whole family to *Bella Bimba*, CD No. 28.
- Look for a squirrel dray in your neighborhood. What activity is there?
- Play a game with the Triple Rhythm Cards. Listen to CD No. 34.

Cattail Marsh 5 (Week 20)

- Listen to the *Marsh Soundscape* and encourage your child to think of pictures in his/her head as s/he listens. Ask your child to draw a picture of the *Marsh Soundscape*.
- Sing, dance and create special verses for *Willum* with the whole family.
- Copy one or more of the Triple Rhythm Cards.

Cattail Marsh 6 (Week 21)

- Compose with the Triple Rhythm Cards. Put them in your favorite order, chant them, and then copy your composition. Put your child's composition into his/her Music Makers Album.
- Listen to the sounds of night in your backyard.
- Sing with friends and family.

Cattail Marsh 7 (Week 22)

- Sing, dance and play your favorite songs. Repeat them often.
- Get out all of your Notation Games. Sort them, and take turns choosing a game to play.
- Make singing and playing instruments part of every day. Repeat favorite activities often.

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